CLAYPOOL COMICS

21
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CANADA

ALL NEW STORIES!

ELVIRA®
MISTRESS OF THE DARK™



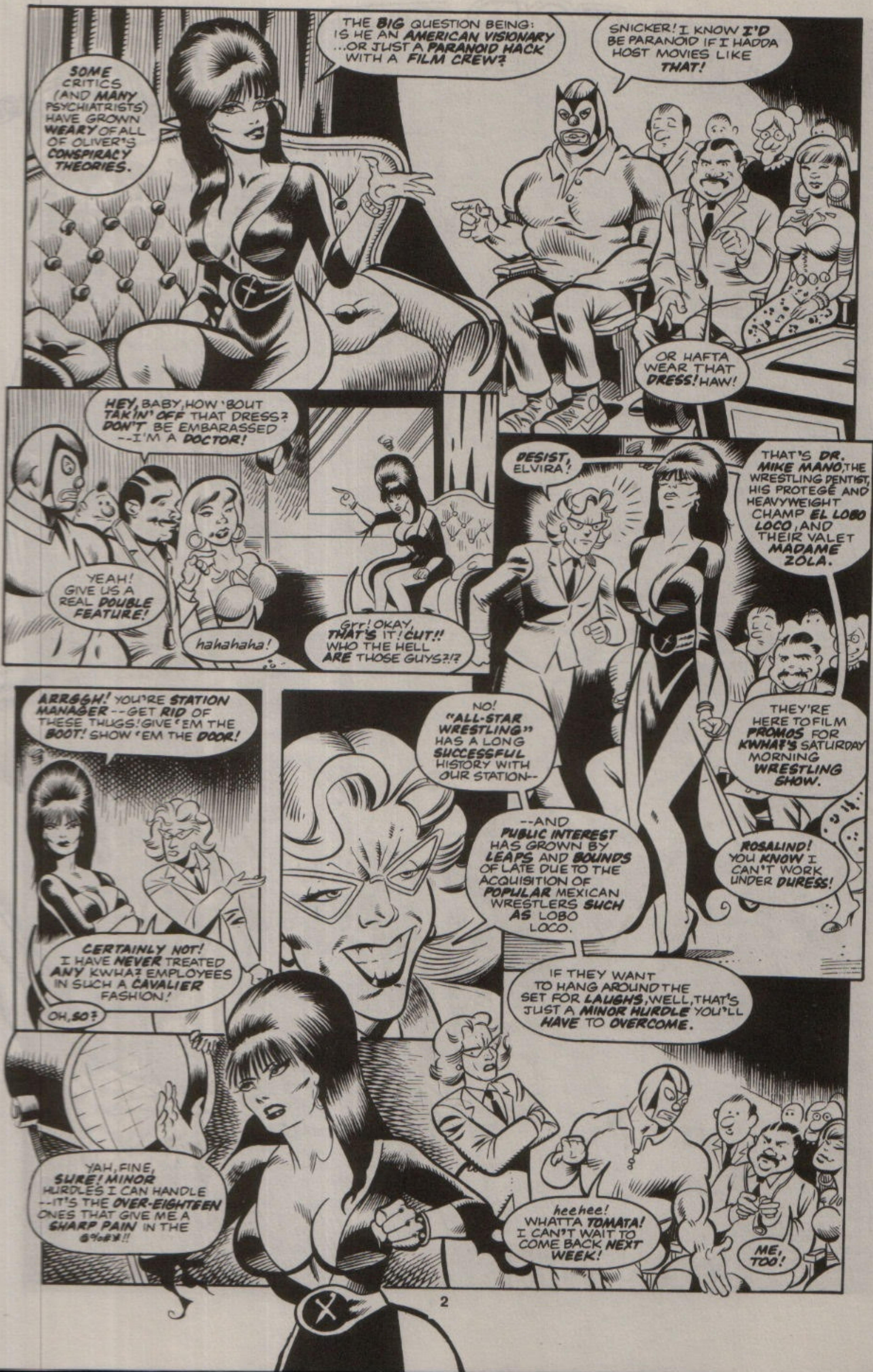
PHOTO BY DAVID GOLDNER

ELVIRA's still in the ring...

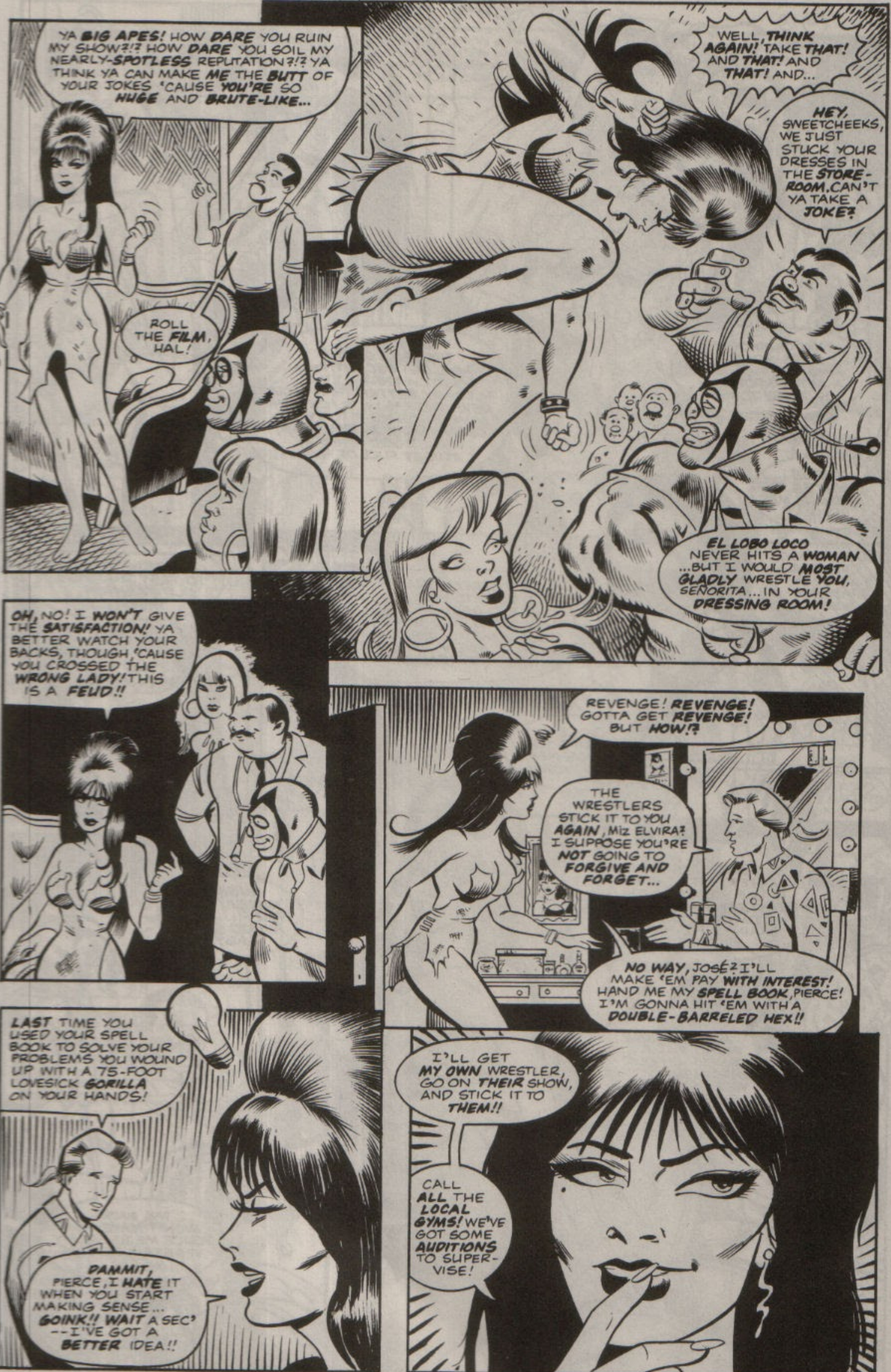
...when she becomes a *PRO WRESTLER!*

Frank Strom • Tom Simonton
Dan Schaefer • Richard Howell
John Heebink • Jim Mooney


"DOWN FOR THE COUNT"
HELLO, DARLINGS! ARE YOU READY FOR A HEAPIN' HELPIN' OF FANTASTIC FRIGHT FLICKS? IF SO--YOU'VE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE! "MOVIE MACABRE'S" FILM LIBRARIAN'S ON VACATION AND WE'RE STUCK WITH A COUPLE OF SUB-PAR (EVEN FOR US!) STRIPS OF CELLULOID THIS WEEK.
YOU HEARD RIGHT-- YOUR ELVIRA HAS AN OLD-FASHIONED DOUBLE-FEATURE FOR YA! FIRST UP IS "MA & PA BOTTLE MEET THE VILE DEAD" (WHICH COINCIDENTALLY IS THE SHORTEST FILM WE'VE EVER RUN), AND THEN WE HAVE OLIVER GROAN'S LATEST BLOCKBUSTER "OLIVER GROAN'S MISTER ED." SURE, YOU'VE SEEN TALKING HORSE MOVIES BEFORE, BUT NONE AS GRIPPING AS THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT, WILBUR! THE GOVERNMENT'S BEEN COVERING UP NOT ONLY THE ASSASSINATION OF J.F.K., BUT ALSO THAT OF THE DINOSAURS AND I CAN PROVE IT!
Script
FRANK "THE LARIAT" STROM
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Ink Art
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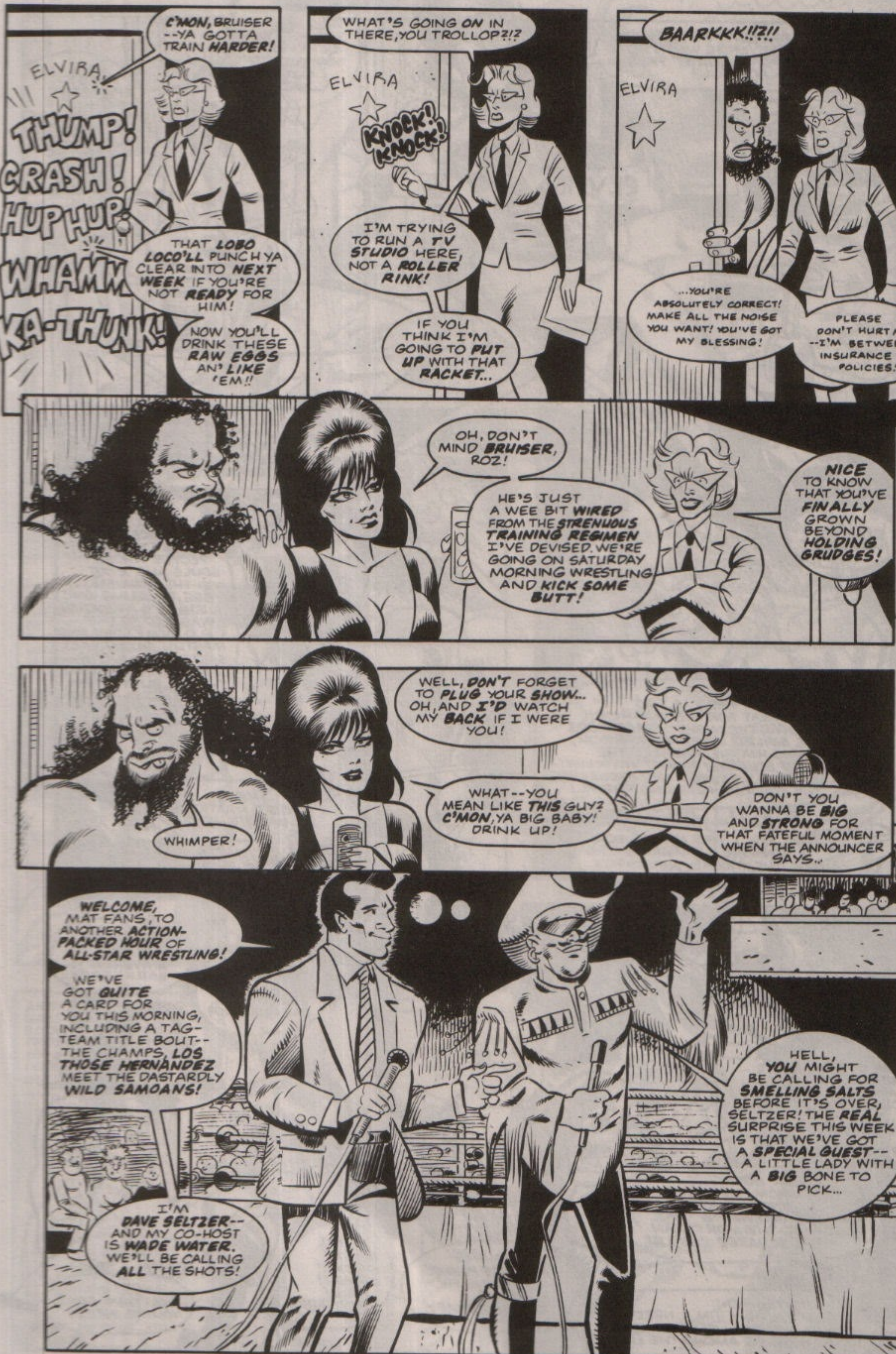

SOME CRITICS (AND MANY PSYCHIATRISTS) HAVE GROWN WEARY OF ALL OF OLIVER'S CONSPIRACY THEORIES.
THE BIG QUESTION BEING: IS HE AN AMERICAN VISIONARY ...OR JUST A PARANOID HACK WITH A FILM CREW?
SNICKER! I KNOW I'D BE PARANOID IF I HADDA HOST MOVIES LIKE THAT!
OR HAFTA WEAR THAT DRESS! HAW!
HEY, BABY, HOW 'BOUT TAKIN' OFF THAT DRESS? DON'T BE EMBARASSED --I'M A DOCTOR!
YEAH! GIVE US A REAL DOUBLE FEATURE!
hahahaha!
Grr! OKAY, THAT'S IT! CUT!! WHO THE HELL ARE THOSE GUYS?!?
DESIST, ELVIRA!
THAT'S DR. MIKE MANO, THE WRESTLING DENTIST, HIS PROTEGÉ AND HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP EL LOBO LOCO, AND THEIR VALET MADAME ZOLA.
THEY'RE HERE TO FILM PROMOS FOR KWHA?'S SATURDAY MORNING WRESTLING SHOW.
ROSALIND! YOU KNOW I CAN'T WORK UNDER DURESS!
ARRGGH! YOU'RE STATION MANAGER --GET RID OF THESE THUGS! GIVE 'EM THE BOOT! SHOW 'EM THE DOOR!
CERTAINLY NOT! I HAVE NEVER TREATED ANY KWHA? EMPLOYEES IN SUCH A CAVALIER FASHION!
OH, SO?
NO! "ALL-STAR WRESTLING" HAS A LONG SUCCESSFUL HISTORY WITH OUR STATION--
--AND PUBLIC INTEREST HAS GROWN BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS OF LATE DUE TO THE ACQUISITION OF POPULAR MEXICAN WRESTLERS SUCH AS LOBO LOCO.
IF THEY WANT TO HANG AROUND THE SET FOR LAUGHS, WELL, THAT'S JUST A MINOR HURDLE YOU'LL HAVE TO OVERCOME.
YAH, FINE, SURE! MINOR HURDLES I CAN HANDLE --IT'S THE OVER-EIGHTEEN ONES THAT GIVE ME A SHARP PAIN IN THE @%#¥!!
heehee! WHATTA TOMATA! I CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK NEXT WEEK!
ME, TOO!


NEXT WEEK...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
"KNOCK-KNOCK"? CROSS YOUR FINGERS THIS ISN'T A SET-UP FOR ONE OF THOSE JOKES!
THREE MINUTES TO AIRTIME, MIZ ELVIRA!
BE RIGHT THERE AS SOON AS I GET DECENT! Hmm... SCRATCH THAT-- I'M ALREADY BETTER THAN DECENT! HEY! WHERE'S MY BLACK GOWN? SOMEONE SEND IT TO THE CLEANERS BY MISTAKE? AH, WELL, I GOT A WHOLE CLOSET FULL OF 'EM...
CORRECTION-- I USED TO HAVE A WHOLE CLOSET OF 'EM! THEY CAN'T ALL BE AT THE CLEANERS! UNLESS... DAMN! I KNEW I SHOULD'A USED MOTHBALLS!
ONE MINUTE TO AIR! WE NEED YOU NOW!!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME TO TEST THAT AGE-OLD FASHION THEORY..!
Uh... HIYA, DARLINGS. YOUR HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST IS THE HOSTESS WITH THE LEASTEST THIS WEEK--THE VICTIM OF SOME MUSCLE-BRAINED PRANKSTERS, APPARENTLY. BUT--
--THIS MINOR HURDLE WON'T PUT A DAMPER ON OUR ENJOYMENT OF THIS WEEK'S FEATURE, "ERNEST GOES TO HELL!"
HUBBA-HUBBA! CAN YOU FILL OUT A POTATO SACK, BABY!
MY MADRE WON'T HAVE TO FORCE ME TO EAT MY VEGETABLES THIS WEEK!



YA BIG APES! HOW DARE YOU RUIN MY SHOW?!? HOW DARE YOU SOIL MY NEARLY-SPOTLESS REPUTATION?!? YA THINK YA CAN MAKE ME THE BUTT OF YOUR JOKES 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO HUGE AND BRUTE-LIKE...
ROLL THE FILM, HAL!
WELL, THINK AGAIN! TAKE THAT! AND THAT! AND THAT! AND...
HEY, SWEETCHEEKS, WE JUST STUCK YOUR DRESSES IN THE STORE-ROOM. CAN'T YA TAKE A JOKE?
EL LOBO LOCO NEVER HITS A WOMAN ...BUT I WOULD MOST GLADLY WRESTLE YOU, SEÑORITA... IN YOUR DRESSING ROOM!
OH, NO! I WON'T GIVE THE SATISFACTION! YA BETTER WATCH YOUR BACKS, THOUGH, 'CAUSE YOU CROSSED THE WRONG LADY! THIS IS A FEUD!!
REVENGE! REVENGE! GOTTA GET REVENGE! BUT HOW!?
THE WRESTLERS STICK IT TO YOU AGAIN, Miz ELVIRA? I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FORGIVE AND FORGET...
NO WAY, JOSÉ! I'LL MAKE 'EM PAY WITH INTEREST! HAND ME MY SPELL BOOK, PIERCE! I'M GONNA HIT 'EM WITH A DOUBLE-BARRELED HEX!!
LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR SPELL BOOK TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS YOU WOUND UP WITH A 75-FOOT LOVESICK GORILLA ON YOUR HANDS!
DAMMIT, PIERCE, I HATE IT WHEN YOU START MAKING SENSE... GOINK!! WAIT A SEC' --I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!!
I'LL GET MY OWN WRESTLER, GO ON THEIR SHOW, AND STICK IT TO THEM!!
CALL ALL THE LOCAL GYMS! WE'VE GOT SOME AUDITIONS TO SUPER-VISE!

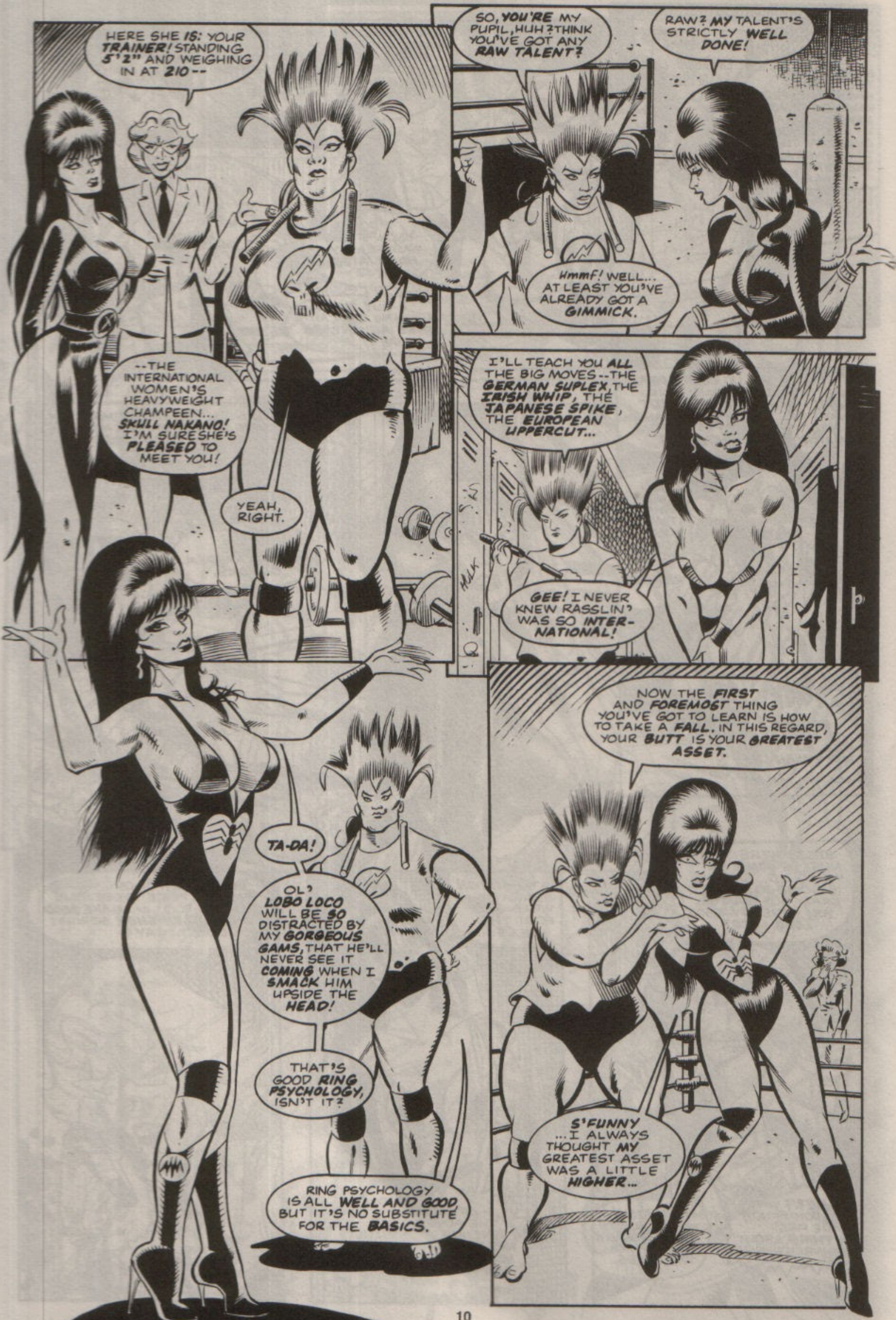

AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT! WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY! REVENGE WAITS FOR NO MAN! WHO'S THE FIRST FRESH YOUNG HOPEFUL?
ELVIR
OUR FIRST APPLICANT, WEIGHING IN AT 314 POUNDS AND 7 OUNCES, HAILING FROM THE CENTER OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, IS...
...THE STEROID WARRIOR!
huff! NO TASK IS TOO GREAT FOR THE WARRIOR! huff! THE MIGHTY SPACE-GODS HAVE SMILED UPON THE WARRIOR, GRANTING HIM THE POWER OF THE MILLION SPHERES! ARMED WITH LIMITLESS huff! ENERGY AND ENDURANCE, THE WARRIOR FEARS NO MORTAL!
Err...I WAS HOPING FOR SOMEONE A TAD MORE THEATRICAL. NEXT!
WEIGHING IN AT 246 POUNDS, AND HAILING FROM SINGAPORE (ACTUALLY SOUTH BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS)... ARTIE ANTICHRIST!
THANK YOU. YOU LOOK LIKE NICE PEOPLE --THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WHOSE SOULS AHR RIPE FOR THE PICKING. Y'SEE, RASSLING ISN'T A JOB, IT'S A VOCATION. I WAS LED TO THIS FIELD BY MY LORD AND MASTUH SATAN, WHO SAID TO ME, "AHTIE-- I WANTCHA TA GO OUT THEYUH, BUST A FEW HEADS, SLAM A FEW BODIES, WIN A FEW BELTS, AND CONVERT A FEW SOULS!"
HEY! WHO'S AUDITIONING WHO?!? NEXT!
WEIGHING IN AT 297 POUNDS, HAILING FROM TOMBSTONE... ...THE MORTICIAN!
ASK NOT FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS... IT TOLLS FOR THE HAPLESS OPPONENTS THAT MUST FACE THE MORTICIAN IN THE SQUARED CIRCLE!
heh-heh! SORRY, SUNNY JIM, I NEED SOMEONE MORE LIVELY...OR AT LEAST SOMEONE AMONG THE LIVING!
WEIGHING IN AT 329 POUNDS AND HAILING FROM OKLAHOMA... BRUISER BRADY!
SO, MR. BRADY ...ANY EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?
PRIMITIVE STATE UNIVERSITY! BARK!! BARK!
BARK! BARK! BARK!!! CRUSH! KILL! DESTROY!
YES! THAT'S MY BOY!!! YOU'RE HIRED!

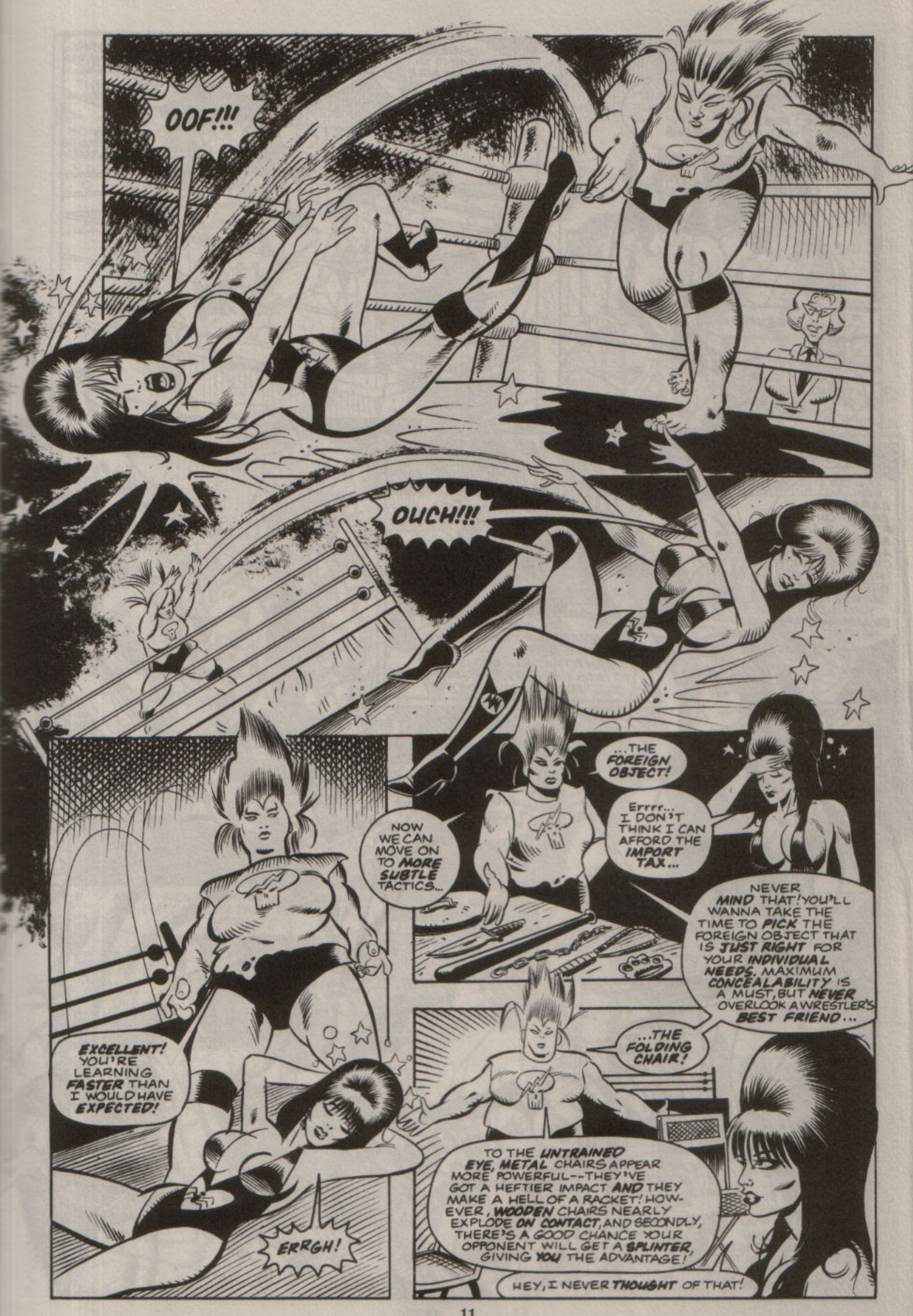

C'MON, BRUISER --YA GOTTA TRAIN HARDER!
ELVIRA
THUMP! CRASH! HUP HUP! WHAMM KA-THUNK!
THAT LOBO LOCO'LL PUNCH YA CLEAR INTO NEXT WEEK IF YOU'RE NOT READY FOR HIM!
NOW YOU'LL DRINK THESE RAW EGGS AN' LIKE 'EM!!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE, YOU TROLLOP?!?
ELVIRA
KNOCK! KNOCK!
I'M TRYING TO RUN A TV STUDIO HERE, NOT A ROLLER RINK!
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO PUT UP WITH THAT RACKET...
BAARKKK!!?!!
ELVIRA
...YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT! MAKE ALL THE NOISE YOU WANT! YOU'VE GOT MY BLESSING!
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME --I'M BETWEEN INSURANCE POLICIES!
OH, DON'T MIND BRUISER, ROZ!
HE'S JUST A WEE BIT WIRED FROM THE STRENUOUS TRAINING REGIMEN I'VE DEVISED. WE'RE GOING ON SATURDAY MORNING WRESTLING AND KICK SOME BUTT!
NICE TO KNOW THAT YOU'VE FINALLY GROWN BEYOND HOLDING GRUDGES!
WELL, DON'T FORGET TO PLUG YOUR SHOW... OH, AND I'D WATCH MY BACK IF I WERE YOU!
WHIMPER!
WHAT--YOU MEAN LIKE THIS GUY? C'MON, YA BIG BABY! DRINK UP!
DON'T YOU WANNA BE BIG AND STRONG FOR THAT FATEFUL MOMENT WHEN THE ANNOUNCER SAYS..
WELCOME, MAT FANS, TO ANOTHER ACTION-PACKED HOUR OF ALL-STAR WRESTLING!
WE'VE GOT QUITE A CARD FOR YOU THIS MORNING, INCLUDING A TAG-TEAM TITLE BOUT-- THE CHAMPS, LOS THOSE HERNANDEZ MEET THE DASTARDLY WILD SAMOANS!
I'M DAVE SELTZER-- AND MY CO-HOST IS WADE WATER. WE'LL BE CALLING ALL THE SHOTS!
HELL, YOU MIGHT BE CALLING FOR SMELLING SALTS BEFORE IT'S OVER, SELTZER! THE REAL SURPRISE THIS WEEK IS THAT WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL GUEST-- A LITTLE LADY WITH A BIG BONE TO PICK...

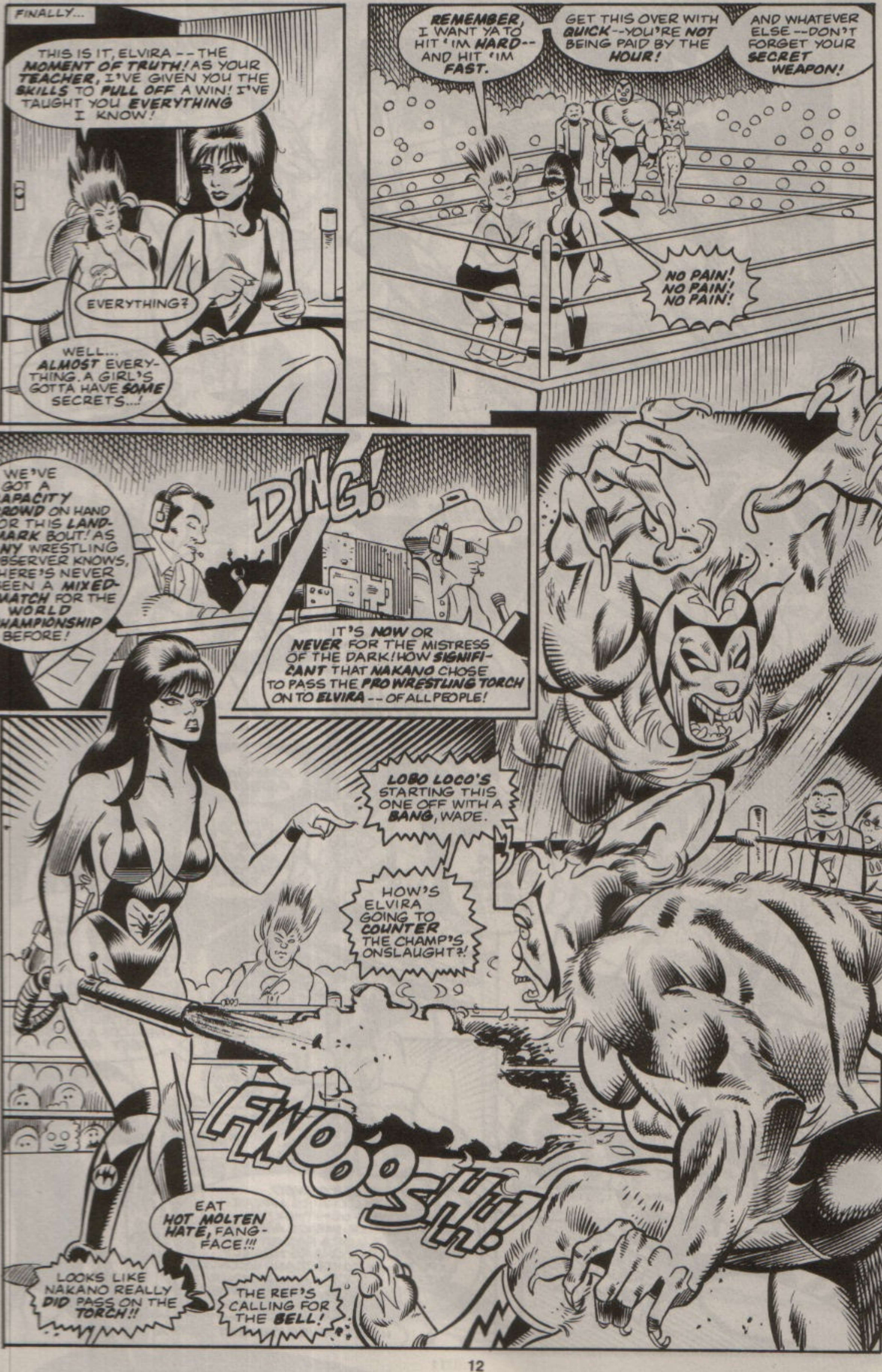

...ELVIRA, MISTRESS OF THE DARK! SO WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH THE WORLD CHAMP, PRETTY LADY?
EL LOBO LOCO AND HIS ENTOURAGE HAVE DISRUPTED "MOVIE MACABRE" TIME AND AGAIN.
NO ONE GETS AWAY WITH THAT, WADE, NOT EVEN THE SO-CALLED "WORLD CHAMP!" HA! WHAT A JOKE! IF HE'S THE REAL CHAMP HE'LL MEET MY MAN BRUISER BRADY IN THE RING RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
HEY, LADY! YOU WANNA PIECE OF THE CHAMP? YOU GOT 'IM! EL LOBO LOCO FEARS NO MAN! HE'S THE WORLD HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPION--
--UNLIKE THOSE TWELVE OTHER LOSERS WHO CLAIM THAT TITLE!
ELVIRA MI AMIGA, HOW FOOLISH OF YOU TO THINK YOU CAN EMBARASS ME IN THE RING WITH YOUR NO-NAME WRESTLER! TODAY I SHALL PROVE THAT YOUR POOR TASTE IN GRAPPLERS MATCHES YOUR TASTE IN MOVIES!
HEY, I'VE GRAPPLED WITH THE BEST OF 'EM, YOU PUMPED-UP HAPPY FACE!
DING!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS NEWCOMER, BRUISER BRADY, WADE?
NOT MUCH! THE CHAMP'S ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER AND WANTS TO MAKE SHORT WORK OF THIS BRADY CHARACTER.
AND THERE'S THE BELL!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? HE'S PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS RIGHT AWAY!
RIGHT YOU ARE, WADE. THE BOUT'S BARELY STARTED AND LOBO LOCO IS ALREADY SETTING UP FOR HIS FINISHING MANEUVER!
LOBO IS SUCH A GIFTED COMPETITOR. THE CONTROL HE HAS OVER HIS OWN BODY IS REMARKABLE.
THAT COMES FROM HOURS AND HOURS OF TRAINING--NOT TO MENTION AN ANCIENT GYPSY CURSE!
HE CALLS THIS MOVE THE "FULL MOON SHIFT!"


GRRRAAUHRRR!!
HOLY HAMMER! HE'S A WEREWOLF!
AND TO THINK I WAS WORRIED ABOUT OUTSIDE INTER-FERENCE...!
BARK! BARK! BARK!
FWOOOSH!!
GRRR!
ROOARR!!
AIIEE!
CRASH!


UNBELIEVABLE! THE PHONES HAVEN'T STOPPED RINGING IN TWO DAYS! I'VE HAD TO HIRE SCHOOL CHILDREN JUST TO ANSWER ALL THE EXTRA CALLS!
EMPRESS ROSALIND WYCK
THE SHOW WAS A SMASH!!
THE SATURDAY MORNING RATINGS WERE GOOD BEFORE, BUT... VIEWERSHIP FOR BOTH SHOWS HAS SKYROCKETED! ELVIRA HAS NEVER BEEN HUMILIATED IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE THIS LARGE BEFORE!
I DON'T KNOW IF SHE WAS REALLY HUMILIATED PER SE--
--BUT IT'S A SHAME YOU CAN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
HELLO, ELVIRA DEAR? GOOD NEWS! YOUR WRESTLING DEBUT WAS A SMASH, AND K-WHA? IS REAPING THE BENEFITS.
SAYS WHO?! I WANT A REMATCH!
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU? A REMATCH!
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA, ROZ, BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
BRUISER'S STILL RECUPERATING. THE DOCTOR'S ADVISED BRUISER NOT TO EXERT HIMSELF BY WRESTLING, OR WALKING, OR MOVING... OR BREATHING TOO HARD. BOY!
SOME OF THESE DOCTORS ARE REAL QUACKS.
MOOOANNN...
STILL, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE COULD... SAY! THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CRAZY, BUT WHAT IF YOU WERE TO WRESTLE LOBO LOCO?
ME?!? WHY, I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WRESTLING!
PISH POSH! WE CAN ALWAYS HIRE A TRAINER TO SHOW YOU THE ROPES.
IS THE STATION GONNA BE WILLING TO FOOT THE BILL?
OF COURSE! THE ADVERTISING REVENUE ALONE JUSTI-FIES THE EXPENDITURE. WE MUST ALL DO WHAT WE CAN FOR THE GOOD OF K-WHA?
BESIDES, I, FOR ONE, WOULD PAY ANY PRICE TO SEE YOU MAKE A FOO...er...MAKE GOOD ON YOUR REVENGE. SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WELL, I GUESS SO...

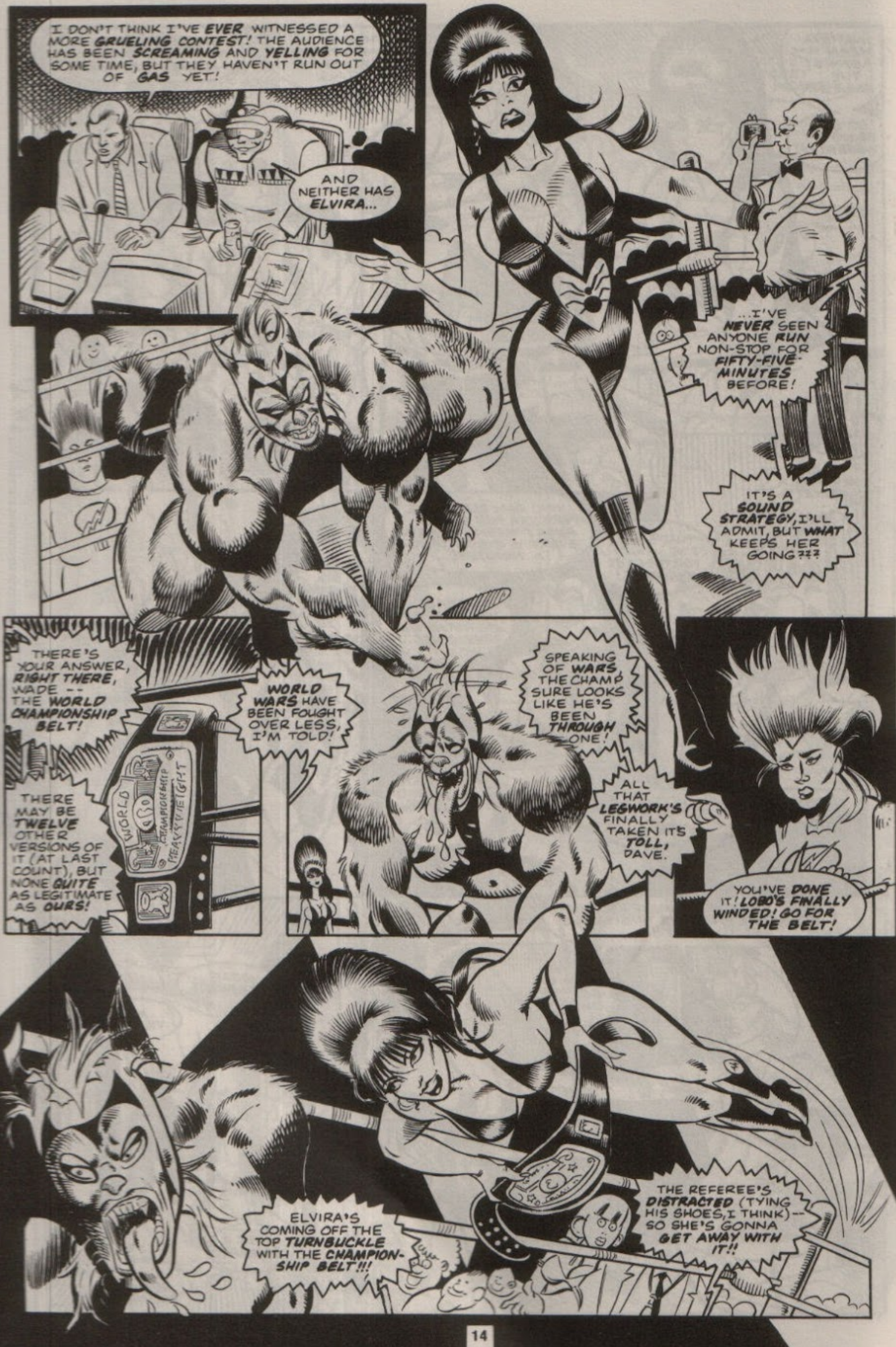

HERE SHE IS: YOUR TRAINER! STANDING 5'2" AND WEIGHING IN AT 210--
--THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPEEN... SKULL NAKANO! I'M SURE SHE'S PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
YEAH, RIGHT.
SO, YOU'RE MY PUPIL, HUH? THINK YOU'VE GOT ANY RAW TALENT?
RAW? MY TALENT'S STRICTLY WELL DONE!
HMMF! WELL... AT LEAST YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A GIMMICK.
I'LL TEACH YOU ALL THE BIG MOVES--THE GERMAN SUPLEX, THE IRISH WHIP, THE JAPANESE SPIKE, THE EUROPEAN UPPERCUT...
GEE! I NEVER KNEW RASSLIN' WAS SO INTER-NATIONAL!
TA-DA!
OL' LOBO LOCO WILL BE SO DISTRACTED BY MY GORGEOUS GAMS, THAT HE'LL NEVER SEE IT COMING WHEN I SMACK HIM UPSIDE THE HEAD!
THAT'S GOOD RING PSYCHOLOGY, ISN'T IT?
RING PSYCHOLOGY IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT IT'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BASICS.
NOW THE FIRST AND FOREMOST THING YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN IS HOW TO TAKE A FALL. IN THIS REGARD, YOUR BUTT IS YOUR GREATEST ASSET.
S'FUNNY ...I ALWAYS THOUGHT MY GREATEST ASSET WAS A LITTLE HIGHER...


OOF!!!
OUCH!!!
NOW WE CAN MOVE ON TO MORE SUBTLE TACTICS...
...THE FOREIGN OBJECT!
Errrr... I DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD THE IMPORT TAX...
NEVER MIND THAT! YOU'LL WANNA TAKE THE TIME TO PICK THE FOREIGN OBJECT THAT IS JUST RIGHT FOR YOUR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. MAXIMUM CONCEALABILITY IS A MUST, BUT NEVER OVERLOOK A WRESTLER'S BEST FRIEND...
...THE FOLDING CHAIR!
EXCELLENT! YOU'RE LEARNING FASTER THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED!
ERRGH!
TO THE UNTRAINED EYE, METAL CHAIRS APPEAR MORE POWERFUL--THEY'VE GOT A HEFTIER IMPACT AND THEY MAKE A HELL OF A RACKET! HOW-EVER, WOODEN CHAIRS NEARLY EXPLODE ON CONTACT, AND SECONDLY, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOUR OPPONENT WILL GET A SPLINTER, GIVING YOU THE ADVANTAGE!
HEY, I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!


FINALLY...
THIS IS IT, ELVIRA -- THE MOMENT OF TRUTH! AS YOUR TEACHER, I'VE GIVEN YOU THE SKILLS TO PULL OFF A WIN! I'VE TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW!
EVERYTHING?
WELL... ALMOST EVERYTHING. A GIRL'S GOTTA HAVE SOME SECRETS...!
REMEMBER, I WANT YA TO HIT 'IM HARD-- AND HIT 'IM FAST.
GET THIS OVER WITH QUICK--YOU'RE NOT BEING PAID BY THE HOUR!
AND WHATEVER ELSE --DON'T FORGET YOUR SECRET WEAPON!
NO PAIN! NO PAIN! NO PAIN!
WE'VE GOT A CAPACITY CROWD ON HAND FOR THIS LANDMARK BOUT! AS ANY WRESTLING OBSERVER KNOWS, THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MIXED-MATCH FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BEFORE!
DING!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER FOR THE MISTRESS OF THE DARK! HOW SIGNIFICANT THAT NAKANO CHOSE TO PASS THE PRO WRESTLING TORCH ON TO ELVIRA -- OF ALL PEOPLE!
LOBO LOCO'S STARTING THIS ONE OFF WITH A BANG, WADE.
HOW'S ELVIRA GOING TO COUNTER THE CHAMP'S ONSLAUGHT?!
FWOOOOSH!
EAT HOT MOLTEN HATE, FANG-FACE!!!
LOOKS LIKE NAKANO REALLY DID PASS ON THE TORCH!!
THE REF'S CALLING FOR THE BELL!



WHATTAYA MEAN IT'S AGAINST THE RULES?!?
SO'S BEING A WEREWOLF!
THERE'S NOTHING IN THE RULEBOOK THAT EXPRESSLY FORBIDS WEREWOLVES FROM COMPETING!
THE SAME, HOWEVER, CAN'T BE SAID ABOUT FLAME-THROWERS!
"SLAP HER WITH A FINE!"
THAT'S ALL I'VE HEARD FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS!
WHO CAN BLAME THE VIEWERS FOR BEING ANGRY WHEN THE MAIN EVENT IS OVER IN UNDER A MINUTE?!
AT LEAST WE DIDN'T OVERSTAY OUR WELCOME...!
NO, YOU'RE NOT GETTING OFF SO EASY!
NEXT WEEK, WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER RE-MATCH. AND THIS TIME YOU'LL GET IT RIGHT!!
NOW GET OUT!
MORE TRAINING?
MORE TRAINING!
AFTER A SAUNA?
AND A HUGE DINNER!



I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER WITNESSED A MORE GRUELING CONTEST! THE AUDIENCE HAS BEEN SCREAMING AND YELLING FOR SOME TIME, BUT THEY HAVEN'T RUN OUT OF GAS YET!
AND NEITHER HAS ELVIRA...
...I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE RUN NON-STOP FOR FIFTY-FIVE MINUTES BEFORE!
IT'S A SOUND STRATEGY, I'LL ADMIT, BUT WHAT KEEPS HER GOING???
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, RIGHT THERE, WADE -- THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BELT!
WORLD WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT OVER LESS, I'M TOLD!
THERE MAY BE TWELVE OTHER VERSIONS OF IT (AT LAST COUNT), BUT NONE QUITE AS LEGITIMATE AS OURS!
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT
SPEAKING OF WARS, THE CHAMP SURE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN THROUGH ONE!
ALL THAT LEGWORK'S FINALLY TAKEN ITS TOLL, DAVE.
YOU'VE DONE IT! LOBO'S FINALLY WINDED! GO FOR THE BELT!
ELVIRA'S COMING OFF THE TOP TURNBUCKLE WITH THE CHAMPIONSHIP BELT!!!
THE REFEREE'S DISTRACTED (TYING HIS SHOES, I THINK) -- SO SHE'S GONNA GET AWAY WITH IT!!



FWAAANGGG!!!
LOBO'S HAD IT NOW--
--NOT ONLY IS HE REVERTING TO HUMAN FORM, BUT HE'S UNABLE TO ANSWER THE TEN COUNT!
THE-E-E WINNER AND NEW WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPEEEN:
ELVIRA Mistress of the Dark
ELVIRA, THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! HOW'D YOU LAY LOBO OUT WITH JUST ONE BLOW?
A MATTER OF LEARNING YOUR OPPONENT'S WEAKNESS, WADE.
IN THIS CASE, IT DIDN'T HURT THAT THE CHAMPIONSHIP BELT IS SILVER-PLATED!
UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO THE BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE MATCH, THE PROMOTER HAS DECLARED THE TITLE HELD UP! YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING TOURNAMENT FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP, THOUGH!
THE FINALS WILL BE A STEEL CAGE, BARBED WIRE, LAND MINE, FIRE PIT, ELECTRIC CHAIR, FALLS-COUNT-ANYWHERE MATCH!
MY COMMITMENTS TO "MOVIE MACABRE" WON'T ALLOW IT...
...BUT I'M SURE ROSALIND WYCK WILL STAND IN FOR ME!
AFTER ALL, SHE'LL DO ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE STATION...
T.K.O.!!



"YOURS CRUELLY"

LETTERS to:

ELVIRA

Mistress of the Dark™

send all letters to:
CLAYPOOL COMICS
647 GRAND AVE. • LEONIA NJ 07605

How'd you like to join the OFFICIAL **Elvira** Fan Club? Show your true colors and get in line behind the Mistress of the Dark. All you have to do for the complete information is to write to:

THE ELVIRA FAN CLUB
14755 VENTURA BLVD., #1-710
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91403

Tell 'em you got the word from Claypool's ELVIRA comics!

Welcome to this oversized, pulsating issue of everybody's favorite **Elvira** comics series, now up to issue twenty-one. For those of you who've been along for the whole ride, glad to have you here. For those of you who're just joining us, welcome to Claypool's **Elvira®, Mistress of the Dark™** —one of the most consistently inventively funny series currently being published (if we do say ourselves) We hope you agree with us, and that you'll join our ranks of regular readers. There's always room for one more!

This issue features the Mistress of the Dark's close encounter with the Pro Wrestling world. As usual, she jumps into this scene with both feet, tackling it with her inimitable style and flair. For those of you out there who suspect us of trying to cash in on the wrestling game's many fanatic fans (as we so transparently did with our foray into soap operas in #11-2), uh...we take the Fifth.

This issue also features the return of one of the variants of our creative team, as regulars **Frank Strom** and **Tom Simonton** are joined by **Dan Schaefer** (last seen in #19's **"Witless for the Prosecution"**). The team of Strom and Simonton seems to be a huge hit with everyone (even—reluctantly—the poor frazzled editor who has to do the placement of Frank's huge dialogue balloons over Tom's full-to-the-brim panels), and most everyone approves of our rotating team of inkers, too, so expect more from Dan, as well as from **Louis Lachance** and **Art Viscardi**. If you have a favorite look for **Elvira**, write in and tell us. We want to try and give you the best, every issue!

Now, it's time for a trip into the Mistress' mail-bag, starting with a long-overdue overview letter from one of our long-term fans:

Dear Fellow Drones of the Queen "B":

I'm baaaaaaaaaaack! That's right. I've been able to make a new connection to supply my **Elvira** habit, and have been able to score everything I missed from #13 on. Now, how can I do an in-depth comment on that many issues? I don't know, but here goes trying...

"Children of the Night..." was very, very funny, nice commentary and in-jokes (Ed Wood, Ed Wood, Jr. He'd have loved it!) Drac looks a little like Shakespeare. **"Killer Cherubs"** was so-so.

"High Camp" was nice, very much like the **Supergirl** stories Jim used to draw in the Sixties. Makes one wonder just what **Elvira**'s real values are.

"Little Miss Marketing Ploy" and **"Good As Her Word"** should have been reversed in order. Scumbags like this guy have been in show biz from the start, and have done more to hurt the image of the business (and of independent producers) than anything else. Cassandra has most likely dealt with more of this sort than she or any other actress should have to.

"Invasion of the Astro-Execs" was a *scream*! One thing; where was Doctor Who? I'm sure the Tardis has a video receiver. I'll bet even the Daleks would have preferred to watch **Elvira** than ex-ter-min-ate-ex-ter-min-ate! (Was the prince supposed to be Rodney Dangerfield?) **"Never-Never-Again"** had a most wild premise: **Elvira** as a *mom*? Too bad she could think of no better a solution than that used by most real moms to change kids' behavior. (I got the point, though. Sharp.)

"There's One Born Every Minute" hit things right on the head. I enjoyed seeing Elvira and Suzie as Sizties horror-movie bimbos. **"The Host Dangerous Game"** sounds like something I wrote and suggested to Cassandra to do as a movie back in '90. I'm glad someone else thinks on my wavelength. I will wait 'til the whole thing is complete before making any comment.

Which brings us to: **"Witless for the Prosecution"** *Ooohh!* But have I been waiting for something like *this!* I remember back in the late Sixties when Peggy Charren (sp?) and her Action for Children's Television nazis forced the networks to cancel all my favorite super-hero cartoons. I did not have the greatest and most understanding of parents and was one of those kids who got harrassed every day at school. Superman, Batman, and others kept me sane and away from drugs and booze at a time when both

were rife in this "family values" town I'm stuck in. I also can *never* forget (much as I try) the ultra-cheap and pathetic **"Shazam/Isis"** shows, and (Gurk!) **"Super-Friends."**

All she and her self-righteous bunch managed to do was cause programming to become even more banal and stupid. And it was revealed some time ago that Freddy Wertham lied in **Seduction of the Innocent** in regard to lots of his research and had inflated his figures. And they call **Elvira**'s morals questionable? Duh!

As you know, England has essentially banned horror and action movies, and as a person who is proud to say I am a liberal, counter-culture McGovernick. I fear what the turn to ultra-right in this country will mean to Cassandra's career as **Elvira**, or this and other comics publications. Guess we'll have to wait and see.

C. R. Jones
7030 Baker Blvd. Apt. #12-R
Hills TX 76118

P. S. When is **Elvira** going to take Spooky Suzie over her knee and five her the whacking she so richly deserves?

With a photo cover of that richly-anticipated event, C. R., we could probably set sales records.

At any rate, thanks for your long and thoughtful letter. We hope we're not being overly naive in our assumption that Elvira's in no immediate danger of being declared unfit for children, church-goers, and other special-interest groups. We may be prejudiced, but we think she's a pretty cool role model. (We also like Bart Simpson, though, so what do we know?)

Dear Sir or Madam:

I just wanted to say that I love **Elvira** comics! I found my first one by accident a few months ago in Hayward, CA, but I don't know if they carry them anymore. I can check.

I would really like to order some back issues and would like to know how I can go about doing that. I would also like to know where I can find this wonderful comic book line.

I am a big fan of **Elvira** and have been for many years. I had no idea she even had a comic book series until I moved here to the Bay Area. In most of the comic book stores, I see **Vampirella**—and I'm not a Vampirella fan at all.

Please don't take **Elvira** off the shelves. I've only begun collecting her merchandise and I would love to have her comic book collection as well. You guys really do a good job with the storylines and the pictures. I was impressed the moment I opened it and started turning the pages.

Maybe you can help me. Thank you and keep up the terrific work, Claypool!

Rochelle Walker
20511 Anita Ave #8
Castro Valley CA 94546

As (we hope) you've received through the mail under separate cover, Rochelle, Claypool does run a single-copy back-issue mail-order operation (and we run ads for it in every issue of our comics). We hope you'll be able to track down another local retail outlet for Elvira and the rest of our books really soon, but with the Comics Warehouse (see ads elsewhere in this issue), you'll never have to go through Elvira withdrawal.

*Here's another reminder about Elvira's latest CD It's been released, and is available even as these fateful words as being typed. The demonic disc's title is **Elvira presents Monster Hits** and it features two new, original recordings by Elvira of new, original Halloween songs.*

Make sure you pick up one. If your local store doesn't already have it in stock, ask them to order it for you. Also, it couldn't hurt to call your local radio station and request they play a cut or two.

Dear "B"-Bombsters:

They say humor comics aren't what they used to be, but there's this book, **Soulsearchers & Company** (which isn't entirely humor, but it's gotta qualify), and the entire Bongo line! This is almost a good enough time to rank up there with **Bob Hope, Stanley & His Monster**, and **Sugar & Spike**. (I'm not counting **MAD**.)

Frank Strom is a real find. Where'd you dig him up, anyway? I've seen Simonton's solo work, as well as other stuff by Lachance and Viscardi, but Strom's news to me (good news, too)! I like the Heebink/Shaw pairing, too—and I loved seeing Springer's work again.

"Claypool for me, see" doesn't really scan. How about: "Claypool Comics are swell comics!"?

Roger Kennedy
762A Fairview Avenue
Annapolis MD 21403

*We've already got a slogan, Roger! Haven't you heard it? It's "Claypool Comics—for people who love to **read** comics."*

We'll try and get some background on Frank soon (but it'll be your fault if he's in the Witness Protection Program and bolts as soon as we start to question him). As for where we found him, well, some years back he walked up to our editor's Artist's Alley table at the San Diego Convention and bought a con sketch. (No, this is not a surefire method to get assigned a regular Claypool series, so don't get those types of ideas.) Frank's turning out some off-center, funny stuff for us here, and you readers have responded strongly to his work.

*That's it for now. Be here in thirty days for another fantastic adventure of **Elvira**, when she joins the Hangover Modelling Agency and becomes the Next Big Thing. Will the world find Elvira ready-to-wear? Will she pet a porter? Find out when our regular creative team returns in **Elvira #22**, with **"I Was A Legal-Age Fashion Victim"** by **Frank Strom, Tom Simonton, and Louis Lachance.***

*Plus, appearing in the back of the book is our next chapter in the latest Elvira back-up serial **"The Host Dangerous Game,"** Remember, it's scripted by **Richard (Scarlet Witch) Howell** (from a plot springboard, er, appropriated by **Peter Sanderson**), with cool art by **John (Quasar) Heebink** and we hope to have **Stan (Guitar World) Shaw** back, too. You'll enjoy it considerably more than standing on your head and eating a bug! That's our pledge of quality to you. Buy yourself an **Elvira #22**! Don't miss it!!*

*Remember, **Claypool Comics** are produced for your reading pleasure, so—**enjoy 'em!!***

ELVIRA HAPPENINGS: HAVE WE MENTIONED LATELY—??

We mentioned this months ago (and we're still doin' it), but let's again plug the new **Elvira** CD! As we alerted you, it was scheduled to be released in time for Halloween, and it made it, with about a month to spare! The demonicdisc's title is **Elvira Presents Monster Hits** and it's complete with cover art featuring an eye-catching photo of the Mistress of the Dark herself. It features two—count 'em, two—new, original recordings by Elvira of new, original Halloween songs. They are:

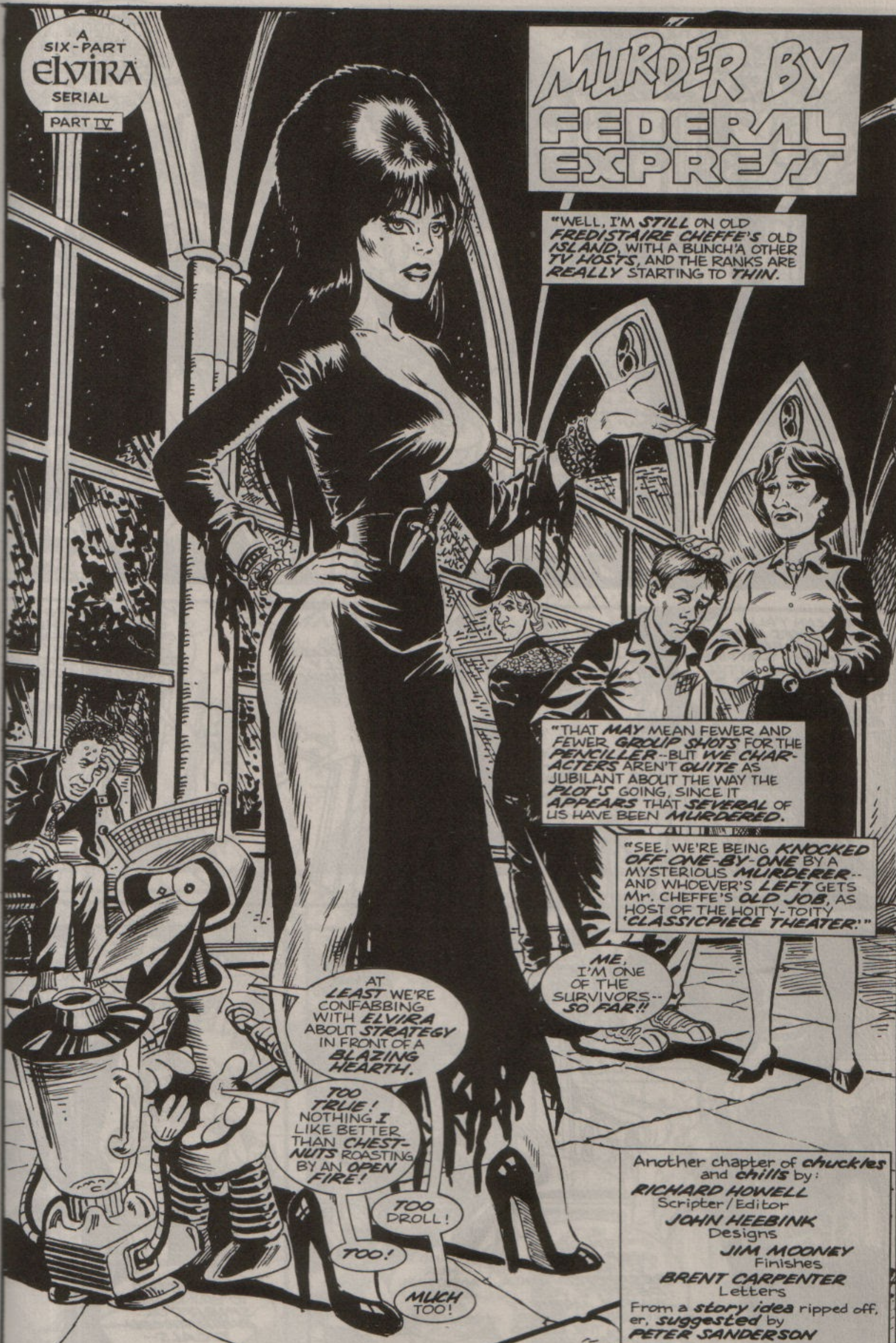
Monsta' Rap, a new Halloween classic written by John Paragon (the self-styled "Paragon of Comedy," and a co-writer of the theatrical feature **Elvira, Mistress of the Dark** which you all have seen, of course), and . . .

Here Comes the Bride (the Bride of Frankenstein), a romantic ditty co-written by Holly Knight (author of hits for Aerosmith, Tina Turner, and Heart) and Fred Schneider (of the B-52s). Fred also sings backup on the cut.

Elvira Presents Monster Hits also includes other scare-inducing classics of monster music.This record-breaking (!) CD is being issued courtesy of Rhino Records.

So...run, stalk, or flap (do not walk!) to your local audio outlet and demand that they sell you a copy! (Hey, if you're reading this comic book, you know the procedure for making sure your local retailer orders items you want, right?)

Also, you'll be sure to be warmed with the special blessing of the Mistress of the Dark if you call in to your local radio station and get some cuts from her CD played over the airwaves, too.



A SIX-PART ELVIRA SERIAL
PART IV
MURDER BY FEDERAL EXPRESS
"WELL, I'M STILL ON OLD FREDISTAIRE CHEFFE'S OLD ISLAND, WITH A BUNCH'A OTHER TV HOSTS, AND THE RANKS ARE REALLY STARTING TO THIN.
"THAT MAY MEAN FEWER AND FEWER GROUP SHOTS FOR THE PENCILLER--BUT WE CHARACTERS AREN'T QUITE AS JUBILANT ABOUT THE WAY THE PLOT'S GOING, SINCE IT APPEARS THAT SEVERAL OF US HAVE BEEN MURDERED.
"SEE, WE'RE BEING KNOCKED OFF ONE-BY-ONE BY A MYSTERIOUS MURDERER--AND WHOEVER'S LEFT GETS Mr. CHEFFE'S OLD JOB, AS HOST OF THE HOITY-TOITY 'CLASSICPIECE THEATER.'"
ME, I'M ONE OF THE SURVIVORS--SO FAR!!
AT LEAST WE'RE CONFABBING WITH ELVIRA ABOUT STRATEGY IN FRONT OF A BLAZING HEARTH.
TOO TRUE! NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN CHESTNUTS ROASTING BY AN OPEN FIRE!
TOO DROLL!
TOO!
MUCH TOO!
Another chapter of chuckles and chills by:
RICHARD HOWELL Scripter/Editor
JOHN HEEBINK Designs
JIM MOONEY Finishes
BRENT CARPENTER Letters
From a story idea ripped off, er, suggested by PETER SANDERSON


WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, HERE--WE'RE JUST GETTING FURTHER AND FURTHER BEHIND THE OL' 8-BALL--
--AND IT'S SAYING "CLOUDY. ASK AGAIN LATER!"
NOW THERE'S AN IMAGE TO CONJURE WITH!
YEAH: SHINY GLOBULAR BLACK OBJECTS THAT WE CAN RUB!
REIN IN THERE, LITTLE FILLY! ARE YOU SAYIN' WE SHOULD HUNT DOWN THE HUMAN POLECAT WHAT'S PICKIN' US OFF--
--AND GUN 'IM DOWN ??!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, BILLY BEAU! THE POINT IS THAT THE BEST DEFENSE IS TO BE AS OFFENSIVE AS POSSIBLE!
Ooh! LET'S THINK UP MASS-MURDERER INSULT JOKES!!
AND SAY AWFUL THINGS ABOUT HIS HAIR-CUT!!
YOU GUYS--!!
HOW CAN Y'ALL MAKE JOKES AFTER THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF THAT FINE FILLY WANDA IN THE LAST CHAPTER? THAT WAS A TRAGIC WASTE OF FEMALE BEE-YOO-TEE!
WE'RE ALL UPSET THAT WANDA'S GOTTEN KNOCKER;-er KNOCKED OFF. ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE KNOW SHE WAS PROVED INNOCENT (BY DEATH) OF OFFING THE OTHERS--
--AND ALSO BECAUSE NEITHER OF US HAD A CHANCE TO GET INTO ANY SERIOUS NECKING WITH HER. SUCH A TRAGEDY!!
Oh, SOB!
Oh, WHINE!
Oh, WHINE!
Oh, SOB!
POOR WANDA-- MY MOST DEAR ON-SCREEN RIVAL!
I REALLY, DEEP DOWN, LOVED AND RESPECTED WANDA, DESPITE HER AWFUL HABIT OF REFERRING TO HER-SELF IN THE THIRD PERSON--
--AND HER ANNOYING SPEAK-ING VOICE!!
WANDA ...sniff!!
WE'VE GOT TO CALM HIM DOWN--
--BEFORE HIS CHALK-ON-BLACKBOARD VOICE DRIVES US ALL CRAZY!!
I NEGLECTED TO BRING ANY SPIRITS OR PHARMACEU-TICALS--



--BUT IF ALL ELSE FAILS, I COULD ALWAYS RENDER HIM UNCONSCIOUS WITH THE YUBIWAZA I LEARNED ON MY OLD JOB AS ONE OF "THE ADVENTGERS."
Oh, I STILL WISH MacSNEE WERE HERE!
NO NO! I'LL PULL MYSELF TOGETHER. THERE'S NO NEED TO PELT ME WITH CHINESE FOOD-STUFFS OR WHATEVER THAT YOU-BEE-STUFF IS.
THIS PRESSURE IS INTER-MINABLE. I WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER THIS WILL BE GOING ON?
BUT FOR THE FACT IT MIGHT SEEM TOO HIGH-BROW, I'D VENTURE A GERSHWIN JOKE HERE.
ANYWAY, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION: IT'S ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE GOING ON 'TIL MORNING--
--AT WHICH TIME, IF THE MURDERER'S PLAN IS SUCCESSFUL, THERE'LL ONLY BE ONE OF US LEFT ALIVE AND THAT PERSON WILL GET THE GREAT JOB.
TROUBLE IS, IT'LL BE OVER THE DEAD BODIES OF EVERY-ONE ELSE. WHAT'LL THE AUTHORITIES SAY WHEN THEY COME IN TO WHER-EVER ALL THE BODIES ARE LAID OUT IN STATE...?
WE LEFT WANDA'S BODY OUT IN THE FOUNTAIN!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE JUST LEFT HER THERE!!
Oh, PLEASE DON'T LET HER BE ALL WRINKLED AND PRUNE-LIKE!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GET YOUR WISH, SULLIVAN, OL' BOY!
WANDA'S BODY IS GONE!!


THIS IS SIMPLY RIPPING, ELVIRA! EXTRO' DINARY!!
WITH EVERY NEW COMPLICATION THAT'S TOSSED IN, THE LESS THIS STORY IS SIMPLY AN UNCREDITED AND UNCOMPENSATED RIP-OFF--
--THE TYPE OF LOW PARODY THAT I WOULD NEVER COUNTENANCE ON MY TONY PBC SERIES, "ENIGMA."
I DON'T GET IT! WHAT'D SHE GO--DOWN THE DRAIN??
THIS IS FAR FROM A CAUSE TO REJOICE, Ms. PFIGG!
SOMEBODY'S SWIPED WANDA'S BODY--FOR WHAT VILE PURPOSE?
I CAN THINK OF SEVERAL WITHOUT EVEN WORKING UP A SWEAT.
NOT COUNTING YOUR PALMS, OF COURSE!
WE'LL OVERLOOK THAT TRAIL OF DROOL, TOO!
CONSARN IT! I'M GETTING GOOD AN' FED UP AT NOT BEING ABLE TO STOP THAT SNEAKY SIDEWINDER, WHOEVER HE IS!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN REASON THIS OUT!
Aha! LOOK HERE! THERE'S A TRAIL OF DRIPPED WATER COMING FROM THE FOUNTAIN'S BASIN, INTO THE NEARBY WOODS.
MAYBE WE SHOULD FOLLOW IT, WHILE THE TRAIL IS STILL ...uh, WET.
REALLY, ELVIRA! THERE MAY BE EXCESSIVE DANGER IN THAT COURSE OF ACTION.
WE GOTTA GO DO SOMETHING!
I'M GOIN' T' LIGHT OFF THOSE FLARES THAT THEY FOUND IN THE SHED.
SOMEBODY'S GONNA HAVE T' NOTICE A BIG FIREBALL COMIN' OFF A SUPPOSEDLY DESERTED ISLAND.
Y'CAN'T STOP ME, ELVIRA! A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT HE'S GOTTA DO.
BILLY BEAU!! WE AGREED NOT TO USE THOSE UNTIL WE KNEW SOMEBODY WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THEM!
GREAT! WELL, THAT CONCLUDES THE "SENSIBLE" PART OF OUR PROGRAM! LET'S THE REST OF US GET BACK IN THE HOUSE. I WANT TO CHECK ON SOMETHING.


WE LEFT THE CREEP'S BODY UPSTAIRS IN THE RADIO ROOM... HEY! WHAT ARE YOU TWO GOONY ROBOTS UP TO?
WE'RE HELPING THE QUEST FOR A KILLER, SEE?
WE'RE PEELING BACK THE EDGE OF THIS PANEL BORDER TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT THE MURDERER'S HIDING BEHIND IT, SEE?
CAN'T YOU TWO BEHAVE? YOU'RE NOT HELPING AT ALL!
FOURTH WALL BACK IN PLACE? ALL RIGHT, THEN.
HERE'S THE ROOM WHEREIN WE ALL LAST SAW THE CREEP'S FLASH-FRIED BODY, AND...
IT'S GONE, TOO!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE BUT A PIECE OF ASH!
Oh, WHAT A STRAIGHT LINE!!
Oh, WHAT GLORIOUS CURVED LINES!!
A LITTLE DECORUM, IF YOU PLEASE! YOU'RE UNDERMINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE STORY FLOW!
Ulp! WE'RE SORRY, Ms. PFIGG!
WILL YOU WHIP US INTO SHAPE?
"THE SITUATION WAS GETTING WEIRDER AND WEIRDER FOR US, BUT THINGS WERE GETTING WORSE BY THE MINUTE FOR BILLY BEAU. HE WAS OUT AT THE SHED, TRYING TO GET THOSE SIGNAL FLARES LIT..."
THERE THEY ARE! DANG THINGS BETTER WORK!
I HAVEN'T BEEN SO HOT UNDER THE COLLAR SINCE THEY TRICKED ME INTO HOSTING A SIX-PART "PLANET OF THE DINGOES" MARATHON!
COME TO OL' PAPA BILLY BEAU, FLARES!
DAGNAB IT! THEY'RE ALL TANGLED UP!
YEEEOW!!!
ISN'T ANYTHING GOIN' T' GO RIGHT TONIGHT!
FIRST A MAD KILLER, THEN A CONSARN CABINET COMES DOWN ON ME!!
WHAT NEXT?!
IS THERE SOMEONE THERE?
SOMEBODY GIVE ME A HAND HERE! I'M HELPLESS AS A NEWBORN COLT--
FLICK
--AND I'M ALL WOUND UP IN THESE HERE FLARES!!


"COURSE WE DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THAT. WE WERE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT."
WHAT I'M SAYING IS: THE FACT THAT THE BODIES HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARING IS EVEN WEIRDER THAN THE WHOLE THRUST OF THIS PLOT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT'S AS IF THE KILLER DOESN'T WANT US TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE BODIES, FOR SOME REASON. WHAT WE NEED IS TO APPLY OUR SMARTS, OUR SLYNESS, OUR RAW, ANIMAL CUNNING--
--WHICH WE ALL MUST HAVE IN ABUNDANCE, OR ELSE WE WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED IN SHOW BUSINESS AS LONG AS WE ALL HAVE--TO FIGURING OUT WHAT SORT OF DESIRED AIM COULD FIT THE WAY THE FACTS HAVE BEEN EVOLVING.
I ALMOST FOLLOWED THAT.
WE'RE OUT OF OUR LEAGUE HERE, ELVIRA. WE'RE JUST TV-SHOW HOSTS. WHAT BUSINESS DO WE HAVE MAKING LIKE WE CAN SOLVE REAL CRIMES?
I THINK THE REAL CRIME HERE IS HIS ANNOYING WHINE!
WE SOLVED IT! WE'RE A COUPLE OF ANGELA LAND'S-BERRIES!
CASE CLOSED! THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!
I FEEL I MUST REMIND YOU, Mr. SULLIVAN, THAT MOST OF US HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN COPING WITH THE COMPLEX BY OUR EXPOSURE TO EXTRAORDINARY SITUATIONS.
WHY, IN MY SHORT STINT AT THE "THEATER OF MUD" ALONE, I COPED WITH MANY HORRORS--NOT TO MENTION MY YEARS WITH "THE REVAMPERS..."
I'M HAPPY FOR YOUR SUPPORT, Ms. PFIGG--BUT CAN WE SAVE THE WAR STORIES FOR LATER?
WE'VE GOT TO GET ORGANIZED AND TAKE THE INITIATIVE. THEN, ONCE WE GET THE PICTURE...
...THE WHOLE SCHEME WILL ALL MAKE SENSE, ALL IN A BLINDING FLASH...
GOINKS!!
HOW RIGHT COULD I BE?
Uh-oh!! AREN'T THOSE THE FLARES--THE ONES THAT BILLY BEAU...?
BILLY BEAU!!



"WE ALL RAN UPSTAIRS, UP TO A BIG WINDOW ON THE LANDING OF THE SECOND FLOOR TO SEE WHAT WE COULD SEE--WELL, MOST OF US DID, ANYWAY...
CAN YOU SEE HIM? WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?
MY MONEY'S ON THE MAD KILLER, JOE L. DID HE HAPPEN TO SLIP YOUR MIND?
LOOK! THERE HE IS! I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF BILLY BEAU BRAGGARD AS A REAL FIRE-CRACKER!
BOY! WAS I EVER RIGHT?!
HE'S LIKE AN UNGUIDED CRUISE MISSILE!
MOST OF THOSE FUSES HAVEN'T BURNED ALL THE WAY DOWN YET!!
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN WHEN THE REST OF THE FLARES GO OFF??
SSSHHHHH-BABOOOOM!
WELL, THAT ANSWERS THAT.
IT PROBABLY ALSO FINISHES OFF BILLY BEAU, TOO! THAT'S ONE MORE OF US GONE-- AND THIS ONE IN A FLASH!!
THE EXPLOSION SURE WAS LOUD--
--BUT I THOUGHT I HEARD A BELL FROM DOWN-STAIRS? DID ANYONE ELSE HEAR A BELL?



WELL, THEN-- THAT'S THAT, THEN!
WHILE YOU WERE ALL SCURRYING ABOUT, I ACCEPTED A FED EX LETTER FOR Mr. CHEFFE FROM A MESSENGER. SOME-ONE NEEDED TO SIGN FOR IT, DONT'CHA KNOW?
AFTER ALL, IT'S GUARANTEED OVERNIGHT MAIL, SO IT'S PROBABLY QUITE, QUITE IMPORTANT.
A FED EX DELIVERY MAN WAS HERE-- ON THE ISLAND? IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT??
INDEED. PERHAPS THE CONTENTS OF THIS PACKAGE COULD AID US?
PERHAPS IT NAMES THE KILLER!
Ms. PFIGG! WAIT!! OPENING THAT PACKAGE IS ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY A BAD IDEA!!
rip
FedEx
PISH AND TOSH! I--
Oohh! I FEEL...
...RATHER POORLY...
Ms. PFIGG!!
I'VE GOT YOU, ENIGMA-LADY!
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, ELVIRA! I THINK SHE'S BEEN POISONED!!
I'M BETTING THE SOURCE OF IT IS THIS PACKAGE!
BROLLY GOOD, LADY!
CAN YOU LEAN DOWN A LITTLE FURTHER?
THAT DELIVERY GUY MUST HAVE BEEN THE KILLER--OR AT LEAST SOME-ONE IN CAHOOTS WITH HIM!!
AGAIN, I MUST COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR DEDUCTIVE SKILLS, ELVIRA!
IF ONLY YOU'D CONSIDER DRESSING IN LEATHER...
Ah, THE UNMISTAKABLE ODOR OF BITTER ALMONDS, VANILLA ICE CREAM, NON-DAIRY DESSERT TOPPING, CHERRIES, AND PERHAPS THE MEREST HINT OF BUTTERSCOTCH.
SOMEONE'S LACED THIS OTHERWISE HARM-LESS FED EX ENVELOPE WITH EAU DE CYANIDE SUNDAE!! IT'S NOT ONLY DEADLY--IT'S FATTENING!!
THE FED EX AIRBILL DIDN'T EVEN HAVE "DANGEROUS GOODS" CHECKED. THAT'S NOT ONLY MURDER--IT'S FRAUD!!
Oh, I STILL WISH MacSNEE WERE HERE!
SHE'S GONE, ELVIRA!
THIS IS TOO MUCH!!
I SWEAR I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. I OWE IT TO MS. PFIGG-- AND WANDA, AND THE OTHERS!
THE KILLER BETTER WATCH OUT NOW!!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE:
"AND THEN THERE WERE...NUNS?"